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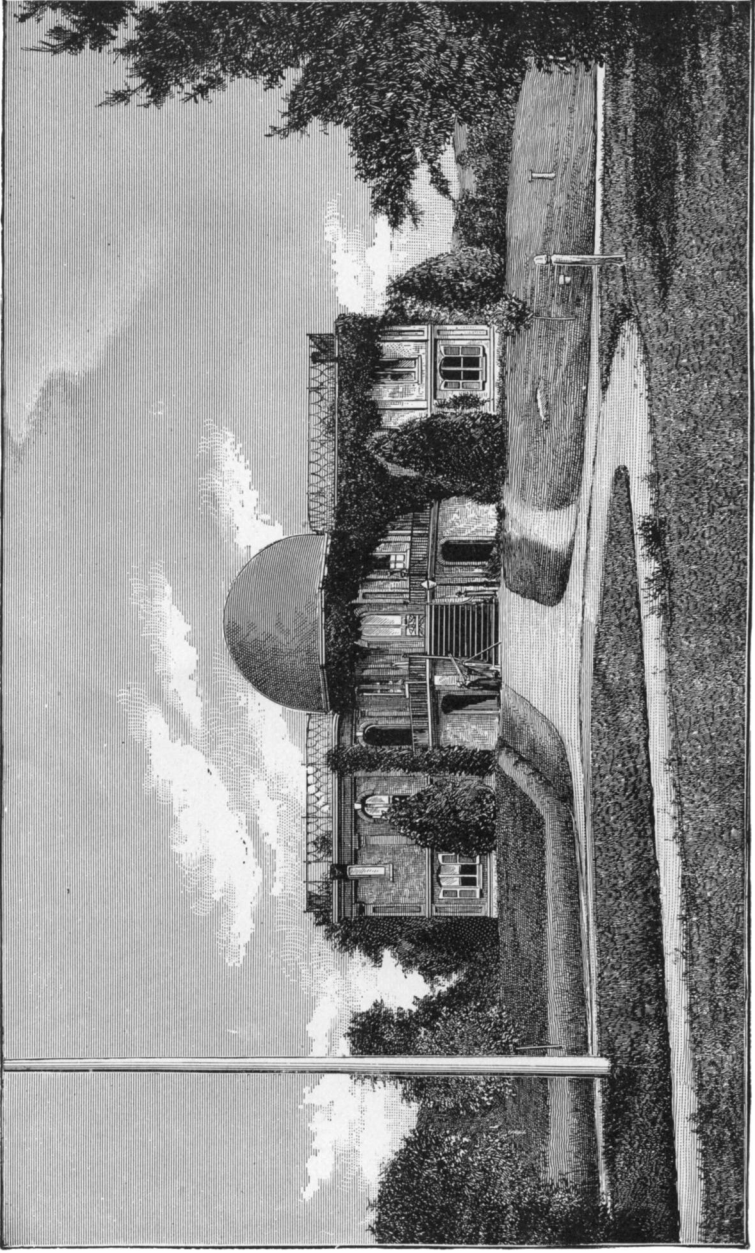
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VASSAR COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

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VASSAR COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

BY PROFESSOR MARY W. WHITNEY.

Vassar College Observatory was established and equipped at the opening of the college in 1865.

The equatorial telescope has an objective of $12\frac{1}{3}$ inches aperture and a focal length of $16\frac{3}{4}$ feet. It was originally made by FITZ of New York, but in 1872 the glass was re-cut by CLARK, and in 1888 the telescope was re-mounted by WARNER & SWASEY. It was also at that time provided with electrical illumination for the filar micrometer. The magnifying powers, negative and positive, range from 150 to 600. A spectroscope made by BRASHEAR was added in 1890. This spectroscope has a prism for star spectra and a ROWLAND grating for the solar spectrum. There is also a BROWNING direct-vision spectroscope. The transit circle has an objective aperture of $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It was made by YOUNG of Philadelphia. In 1889 it was re-mounted by SAEGMULLER. The clock and chronograph are of BOND manufacture.

Beside the mounted instruments, the observatory has two portable telescopes of 3 and 6-inch apertures, both made by CLARK; also a universal instrument from WANSCHAFF of Berlin. The instruments are used almost altogether for purposes of instruction. There are three classes in each college semester. The portable telescopes are exclusively devoted to class uses, and the spectroscope is at present (1894) serving the needs of a class of seven in solar physics, who are required to themselves observe the phenomena discussed in the lecture. The second-year-students in astronomy have practical instruction with both the meridian and equatorial instruments. Therefore only such occasional

independent observations can be made as will not interfere with the regular duties of the department. A few articles on comet places, features of *Jupiter* and the new star in *Auriga*, have been published during the past two years.

The meteorological equipment consists of maximum and minimum thermometers and rain-gauge. Records are kept throughout the year and monthly reports are sent to the New York Meteorological Bureau.

The first Director of the observatory was MARIA MITCHELL, of Nantucket, who took charge of the department at the opening of the college and retained the professorship for twenty-three years.

The final determination of the latitude of the observatory was secured by Miss MITCHELL in 1872 by a zenith telescope loaned by the U. S. Coast Survey, and that of longitude in 1877 by telegraphic connection with Harvard College Observatory.

ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE MID-WINTER FAIR.

BY ALLEN H. BABCOCK.

The LICK* Observatory exhibit at the World's Fair of 1893, in Chicago, was composed of about 100 specimens of the photographic work of various members of the staff of astronomers. It consisted chiefly of framed transparencies on glass and was placed in the exhibit of Santa Clara County in the California building. The location was an unfortunate one in some respects, for few who are interested in the subject would think of looking for an astronomical exhibit in the midst of a collection of fruits and cereals. The photographs were moved to San Francisco at the close of the World's Fair, are now on exhibition in the Santa Clara County building at the Midwinter Fair, and later will be presented to the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

The Regents were determined that the University should be properly represented at the Midwinter Fair and to that end made an appropriation of \$5000 for a University exhibit. As a whole, the exhibit of the University of California is very dignified and appropriate. It occupies the whole of the north gallery of the